

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4568

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5915

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CI

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EXPULSION OF ABC STRINGER GEORGE ROTH (UK  
NATIONAL)

REF: SANTIAGO 5852, SANTIAGO 5870

1. PAO IN COURSE OF CORDIAL COURTESY PHONE CALL TO FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY, ENQUIRED IF ANY CHANCE ROTH COULD REMAIN IN CHILE "ON GOOD BEHAVIOR." WILLOUGHBY CORDIALLY REPLIED THAT HE HAD SPENT RESTLESS NIGHT WEDNESDAY SINCE HE HAD ALREADY GONE CONSIDERABLY FARTHER THAN HE SHOULD HAVE WITHOUT AUTHORITY IN HOLDING UP ROTH EXPULSION ORDER. WILLOUGHBY SAID THAT WHAT HE DID WAS TO BUY TIME FOR ROTH TO ARRANGE HIS AFFAIRS AND TO LEAVE IN ORDERLY MANNER TO WHICH "ROTH HAD AGREED." PAO POINTED OUT REPERCUSIONS THIS COULD CREATE IN U.S. WITH ALL WIRE SERVICES POISED AND READY TO FILE STORY AS SOON AS ROTH LEAVES COUNTRY, BUT WILLOUGHBY REMAINED FIRM, SAYING: "THOSE WHO HAVE MADE DECISION REALIZE THIS AND ARE READY TO ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES."

2. WILLOUGHBY CONTINUED CONVERSATION CALLING ROTH "TROUBLE MAKER" WHO HAD ASSISTED GERMAN FILM COMPANY TO MAKE FILM DEROGATORY TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND REITERATED THAT ROTH SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN TIME MAGAZINE PHOTOS. EARLIER, ROTH TOLD INFORMATION OFFICER HIS SIDE OF STORY. HE SAID WEST GERMAN  
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TV CREW CAME TO CHILE IN EARLY MAY AND STAYED ALMOST TWO MONTHS.

IN EARLY JUNE, CREW'S LEG-MAN AND INTERPRETER HAD TO RETURN TO GERMANY, AND HE WAS HIRED AS REPLACEMENT. AFTER TEN DAYS HE BECAME SUSPICIOUS AND QUIT, TELLING CREW'S CHIEF: "YOU CAN TAKE YOUR FILM AND LEAVE COUNTRY, BUT I HAVE TO LIVE HERE." ROTH INSISTED THAT DURING THOSE TEN DAYS, HE ACTED ONLY AS LEG-MAN AND INTERPRETER, AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE WAS NEVER TOLD WHERE CREW WAS OR WHAT THEY WERE SHOOTING.

3. WILLOUGHBY ENDED CONVERSATION WITH PAO ON OMINOUS NOTE. HE ASKED PAO TO PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO NICHOLSON, AP BUREAU CHIEF, AND PADILLA UPI BUREAU CHIEF, BOTH AMERICAN CITIZENS: "TELL THEM THEY BETTER BE VERY CAREFUL THAT WHAT THEY WRITE IS ACCURATE BECAUSE IF THEY SLIP UP THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO TO PROTECT THEM. THEY WILL BE OUT. THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE MADE THIS DECISION HAVE CONSIDERED IT VERY CAREFULLY AND KNOW JUST WHAT THEY WILL FACE IF THEY TAKE THIS STEP. I WILL TELL THE FRENCH AND GERMAN AGENCIES BUT YOU BE SURE NICHOLSON AND PADILLA UNDERSTAND THIS."

4. PAO AND IO MET THIS MORNING WITH NICHOLSON AND PADILLA AND PAO CONVEYED WILLOUGHBY'S MESSAGE. BOTH HAVE HAD SIMILAR WARNINGS IN PAST BUT ADMITTED LATEST SOUNDS "MORE SERIOUS."

5. PAO ALSO DISCUSSED ROTH CASE YESTERDAY WITH FIRST SECRETARY, BRITISH EMBASSY WHO SAID HE WAS SEEKING APPOINTMENT WITH WILLOUGHBY TO TRY TO GET ROTH INDEFINITE REPRIVE ON GOOD BEHAVIOR, OR FAILING THAT, AGREEMENT FOR ROTH TO LEAVE COUNTRY ON INDEFINITE VACATION WITH HOPE OF RETURNING AT LATER, UNSPECIFIED DATE.  
POPPER

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